ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

ACCESSING LEGACY APPLICATIONS
FROM THE INTERNET

Interactive legacy applications can be run from a network, such as the Internet, without requiring any code changes in the application. Typically, legacy applications are critical to a business, are self-contained on the computer, have mixed business and user interface logic, and were written before distributed computing emerged. Separating business logic from user interface logic as required by web application architectures is not practicable in the case of legacy applications. A client has a network user agent which can access a network server connected to the computer. When an application is invoked from the network user agent, a runtime data redirector intercepts the application's raw data and sends the data to the network server which then serves the data across the network to the network user agent. Input data from the user entered through the network user agent are sent back to the application via the same runtime intercept.

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[A method and apparatus that has the ability to run interactive legacy applications from a network, such as the Internet, without requiring any code changes in the application. [Thus, the application is unaware of the new network environment and continues to run, as-is, in its native environment. The legacy application may be accessed from any of several client devices using a network server that can be connected to or integral with the computer on which the application is executing.] Typically, [these] legacy applications are critical to a business, are self-contained on the computer, have mixed business and user interface logic, and were written before [software engineering principles of] distributed computing emerged. Separating business logic from user interface logic as required by web application architectures is not practicable in the case of legacy applications. A client[, such as a thin client,] has a network user agent[such as a web browser,] which can access a network server connected to the computer. [The method of this invention provides an environment such that] when an application is invoked from the network user agent, a runtime data redirector intercepts the application's raw data and sends the data to the network server which then serves the data across the network to the network user agent after dynamically updating the associated application's network pages, such as JavaServerPages, which were generated by converting the proprietary display screens of the legacy application.] Input data [form] the user entered through the network user agent are sent back to the application via the same runtime intercept. [In this fashion, the client and network environment are transparent to the application while the application is now able to take advantage of many Internet and other network capabilities.]

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